

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. [BILL NUMBER]

Veterans tuition program limits.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military  
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterans and higher education;  
2 specifying education that a combat veteran, surviving  
3 spouse or dependent may pursue under the free tuition  
4 program; limiting costs the program covers; reducing the  
5 number of semesters the program covers; specifying  
6 applicability; and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-106(a) by creating a new  
11 paragraph (vi), (b), (d), (f), (j) and (k) is amended to  
12 read:

1  
2       **19-14-106. Free tuition for education of war orphans**  
3 **and veterans; definitions.**

4  
5       (a) As used in this section:

6  
7               (vi) "Successive education" means the pursuit of  
8 degree-based or certificate-based education offered by an  
9 accredited education institution, which education is a  
10 higher level than the student has previously earned. For  
11 purposes of this section, a degree or certificate at the  
12 same or lower educational level than the student has  
13 previously earned shall not be considered successive  
14 education unless pursued simultaneously with a higher level  
15 degree or certificate.

16  
17       (b) The state or any political educational  
18 subdivision shall provide free tuition, ~~matriculation and~~  
19 ~~other fees~~ to all eligible persons who are residents of  
20 this state and who are attending or may attend ~~any state~~  
21 ~~institutions in elementary, secondary and college grades,~~  
22 ~~business colleges, state vocational training schools or~~  
23 ~~other educational institutions of this state~~ the University

1 of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college for the purpose  
2 of successive education, where courses of instruction are  
3 provided in subjects which would tend to enable the  
4 eligible persons to engage in any useful trade, occupation  
5 or profession. Funds provided under this section shall not  
6 exceed the University of Wyoming current undergraduate rate  
7 per semester, regardless of the education level, degree or  
8 certification a student pursues.

9  
10 (d) The community college commission shall reimburse  
11 the University of Wyoming and each community college for  
12 the costs of tuition ~~and fees~~ provided under this section.  
13 If insufficient funds are appropriated, the reimbursement  
14 shall be proportionally reduced based on tuition ~~and fee~~  
15 expenses. The commission shall promulgate rules for the  
16 implementation of the free tuition ~~and fees~~ pursuant to  
17 subsections (f) through (k) of this section, including the  
18 reimbursement to the university and community colleges.

19  
20 (f) Any person who is a Vietnam veteran, not  
21 presently receiving education benefits under the  
22 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, an  
23 overseas combat veteran, a combat veteran surviving spouse

1 or a combat veteran dependent shall receive free tuition  
2 ~~and fees~~ for up to a total of ~~ten (10)~~ eight (8) semesters  
3 of study at the University of Wyoming or any Wyoming  
4 community college. The University of Wyoming and all  
5 Wyoming community colleges shall cooperate to ensure that a  
6 total of not more than ~~ten (10)~~ eight (8) semesters is  
7 provided under this section to any recipient. No person  
8 shall be eligible for the benefits provided under this  
9 section for any semester commencing more than eight (8)  
10 academic years after the semester in which the person  
11 initially receives benefits under this section. The  
12 institution in which the student enrolls shall grant  
13 exceptions to the requirements of this subsection for  
14 military service, religious service or other good cause  
15 shown, which exceptions shall be consistent with rules  
16 promulgated by the Wyoming department of education for the  
17 Hathaway scholarship program under W.S. 21-16-1303(d).

18

19 (j) A person who had qualified for free tuition ~~and~~  
20 ~~fees~~ under subsection (f) or (g) of this section, shall be  
21 deemed eligible for the free tuition ~~and fees~~ at any  
22 Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming up  
23 to the maximum number of semesters of study allowed under

1 subsection ~~(a)~~ (f) of this section, if the person transfers  
2 to another institution specified in subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) of  
3 this section.

4  
5 (k) To remain eligible for benefits under this  
6 section, by the end of the spring semester completing the  
7 student's third or fourth semester of attendance, the  
8 student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at  
9 least two point zero (2.0) and shall maintain a cumulative  
10 grade point average of at least two point zero (2.0) at the  
11 end of each subsequent spring semester to continue to  
12 receive the free tuition ~~and fees~~.

13  
14 **Section 2.** Notwithstanding W.S. 19-14-106 as amended  
15 by this act, students receiving initial benefits before  
16 July 1, 2018, shall be eligible for free tuition and fees  
17 for up to a total of ten (10) semesters if such benefits  
18 are exercised before August 15, 2020. Students receiving  
19 benefits subject to this section may continue work in the  
20 certificate or degree-based program in which they are  
21 currently enrolled regardless of successive education or  
22 University of Wyoming undergraduate rate requirements.

